



ACC E-News
August - September 2020

Pastoral Letter from Pastor Matt Kang – ACC Deputy Chair

Dear ACC members, congregations, clusters and groups

What are your thoughts on politics and political leaders?

Understandably, there are many loud opinions coming from my Melbourne-based friends. Some love the Premier Dan Andrews, and some abhor him. During this year (marked by the manifold impact of the Coronavirus), many citizens give their opinion on our PM, Scott Morrison and his government.

As I write this, I sit in Sydney, where I have lived my whole life, and some of my friends complain about the border closures – a parent in Adelaide, or a son in Brisbane. These are indeed frustrating times.

As followers of Jesus, we are taught from the Bible to submit to our governing authorities (Romans 13:1-7). Yet the author of Hebrews tells us to “not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:25).

Who is in control? Who must we listen to?

John Newton, the Anglican Pastor who lived 300 years ago, and who authored the great hymn “Amazing Grace”, said this:

“There is one political maxim which comforts me: ‘The Lord reigns.’”

What a profoundly helpful comment: God reigns.

God the Father, the creator and the owner of the universe, is described by the Apostle Paul as: (1) “the blessed and only Ruler”, (2) “the King of kings and Lord of lords”, (3) “alone is immortal”, (4) “lives in unapproachable light”, (5) “no one has seen or can see” (1 Timothy 6:15-16). Paul rightly adds: “To him be honour and might forever.”

For those of us who are Christians, we know that God has sent His one and only Son to be “the atoning sacrifice for our sins” and for the whole world (1 John 2:2). As we contemplate on the fact that God the Father has sent us His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins and to be raised for our justification (Romans 4:25), the Holy Spirit works within us to make us not only more and more grateful for this great a salvation, but more and more *like* our Saviour Jesus Himself.

As we grow in our Christlikeness, gradually, yet surely, His passions become our passions, His priorities become our priorities, and His mission becomes our mission. Jesus Himself says that “the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” (Luke 19:10).

In 2020, as we are all humbled and reminded of our frailty and our momentary life here on Earth, we need to be moved by God's Word and Spirit – to see the *urgency* of Christ's mission.

So far, more than 500 people have died in our country from the Coronavirus. I wonder how many of them knew the saving mercy of God in Jesus.

Yes, we are all “zoom-ed out”. Yes, we all miss singing praises at church with our spiritual family. Yes, you might be discouraged because you've lost your job, or you're forced to wear a mask. But people of God, many people are perishing without hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They will face the judgment of our Holy God – and will not have Jesus as their mediator. Many people will die in 2020 without being saved by Jesus! We must feel the urgency of our Gospel mission!

As lockdowns continue. As we await a vaccine. As we endure all the complaining around us. May we – the ransomed people of God – be urgently on mission *with* God – to communicate His saving grace to the thousands of people in our towns and cities that so desperately need to hear it. Pick up the phone. Write that letter. Drop by your workmates house. Do whatever it takes – to share the Gospel with people. And as we do so, may God reap for Himself a great harvest of souls – for our joy, and for His glory!

Pastor Matt Kang. 26th August 2020

ASSEMBLY OF CONFESSING CONGREGATIONS 2020 AGM

Please note that the ACC AGM will not be held on the October date advised last E-news. Our apologies for any confusion. It is a difficult year for many organisations to be able to organise their AGMs including the ACC. We are in crucial times not only with the Pandemic but also with the UCA and it is vital that we do press in to have our AGM so please be in prayer about this.

The good news is we now have details for our postponed AGM 2020, and we pray this is the last change. We are very thankful and praise God for Sydney Cheil being willing to host us in these uncertain times. It will be a Hybrid AGM. That means people will be able to attend both onsite especially for Voting Members and online for all our other ACC members via zoom.

Understanding the changing times with are in with the pandemic and placing it in the hands of our mighty and steadfast God the following details have been decided.

The Annual General Meeting of the ACC Inc. will be on:

SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER

10:30am – 4:00 pm (NSW, ACT, VIC, TAS, QLD);

10:00 am-3:30 pm (SA and NT) and 8:30am – 2:00pm (WA)

Venue: SYDNEY CHEIL UNITING CHURCH, 7 SYDNEY ST, CONCORD, NSW

OR: ONLINE VIA ZOOM

Please see the link in the e-news that has been circulated for registrations both onsite and online.

You can also register through the ACC office if you would prefer.

It is unknown at this stage what will be happening regarding the coronavirus-19 and whether borders will have reopened and we do realise that it may be difficult to know how to plan.

At this stage, we encourage those people at least in NSW who are ACC congregational, cluster, or group representatives and have voting rights to plan to come to Sydney Cheil. We are holding the 50 allocated seats (COVID-19 restrictions) for voting delegates. So, if this fits you, please register for onsite registrations. Registrations are open now, and it is free to register. We pray that things will open up for ACC members from other states to be able to join us. You can also register through the ACC office rather than online.

For registering on the web for onsite attendance, please use the link in the e-news. This has details including covid-19 restrictions for the day, program and onsite registrations.

For on-line registration, including voting members who can't attend due to social distancing and all our much-valued individual members and other members of ACC congregations, clusters, groups we very much want your attendance and to hear your voice. Registration is now open for online attendance. Please go to the link in the e-news version or contact the ACC office for the link.

If you are unsure about zoom and never met in this way before, please don't dismiss the idea. Watch this space. We want as many ACC members to join in as possible and are looking to have a training session for those unfamiliar with zoom a week or so before the AGM. You can even join in on the phone if you don't have the technology for online.

You may also plan to meet up with other local ACC members and watch the AGM together online from wherever you are. That might include praying and fellowshiping together.

Other News: ACC Memberships

Supporting Membership renewals for individuals, couples and families will be postal mailed in the next week (mail is a little erratic in arriving at present, so it may be a 2-3 weeks for some before the material arrives).

Note: a number of members have already paid their membership through direct deposit and this has hopefully been noted, so if you have paid, you should not receive a renewal notice. (Amounts for 2020-21 are \$10 concession and \$20 full)

Congregational and Group Memberships renewals will be emailed out over the next two weeks. A number of congregations have already paid their membership for 2020-21, and again, renewal notices will only go to congregations needing advice.

Our grateful thanks to all members and congregations for the continuing financial support of the ACC at this time of change and development, and for your undergirding in prayer.

ACC PRAYER

- Praise God that many people are seeking Him in Australia in these uncertain times. Pray as Matt as encouraged us, that we be ready to share the good news of Jesus Christ with our family, neighbours and friends.
- Pray for a fresh fervor for ACC members to pray and bring the good news to the lost
- Pray that we can all be about the business the Lord Jesus Christ gave us of making disciples of all nations who in turn can share God's love in word and deed.
- Pray for the arrangements of the Hybrid AGM on the 21st November that the Lord would make a way for people to be able to come whether onsite or online. We have many important matters to discuss for the sake of the gospel and Christ's Kingdom. Pray our Living Head the Lord Jesus Christ would lead and guide us.
- Pray for ACC members and leaders who are suffering for the sake of the gospel. Pray we may all grow in boldness and strength but also in the grace to be more and more Christlike loving even the ones that seem to persecute and hate us.

WEEKLY SCHOOL OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL

If you would like to subscribe to the ACC School of Faith weekly devotional, please see the Confessing School of Faith website: <https://www.confessingschooloffaith.com/>

ACC ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

Some congregations are still unable to meet in person. If you don't have an online service to join yet, please check out the list of ACC congregations on the ACC website.

You can also attend our **ACC Sunday afternoon Communion Service by Zoom (3.00 pm AEST)**. This service going now for 2 years will continue even after the restrictions have lifted.

And the ACC prayer meeting **every Wednesday** at 8am NSW, Vic, Tas, Qld; 7:30am SA, NT; 6am WA.

Details available from the ACC office.

Now unto Him who is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen

Rev. Anne (Hibbard)

Prayer Co-ordinator

Assembly of Confessing Congregations Inc. ABN 73 794 518 715 ARBN 128 001 785 ; Incorporated in NSW INC9887628 Liability of Members is Limited.
Registered Office: 2 Erskineville Road, Newtown NSW; Postal Mail: PO Box 968
Newtown NSW 2042; Tel: (02) 9550 5358; 0423 637 576;
accoffice@confessingcongregations.com; www.confessingcongregations.com